(c) With a view to ensure adequate and timely flow of credit to the agriculture, several steps have been taken by RBI and NABARD which include, *inter-alia,* the following:—

(i) The commercial banks have been asked by RBI to increase the credit flow to agriculture by 25%.

(ii) With a view to strengthen the financial capability of NABARD, its capital has been raised by Rs. 1000 crores during the past two years.

(iii) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been given recapitalisation support.

(iv) Banks have been advised to set up specialised agricultural branches in each State to exclusively deal with high-tech agricultural advances.

(v) Banks have been advised to extend cash caredit facilities for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having a good trach record; and

(vi) With a view to improving the access of small farmers to institutional credit, NABARD has advised co-operative banks to earmark funds in favour of small, marginal and economically weak farmers.

RBI has issued standing guidelines to banks in August 1984 to be followed by them for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities/riots, etc. without waiting for instructions from RBI each time. These guidelines envisage, *inter-alia,* conversion of short-term production loans into medium term loans, rescheduling/postponement of existing term loans instalments, provision of additional need-based crop loans working capital and relaxation in security and margin norms.

These guidelines also envisage provision of the consumption loans upto Rs. 1000/-. In respect of current dues in default, banks have been asked not to charge penal interest. The banks have also been asked to suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

Subsidy to Power Sector

1464. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1996-97 the aggregate power subsidy was Rs. 22,000 crores and annually it is increasing by another Rs. 30,000 crores as reported in the press;

(b) how long this subsidy would continue in the power sector and what is the total incidence of subsidy being given by Government to various other sectors;

(c) the percentage of this subsidy support viz-a-viz the annual budgetary allocations made by Government; and

(d) whether the State Government are bearing the expenditure of this type of 'subsidy' under various heads, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASHWANT SINHA): (a) Power subsidy is given by the State Government to their State Electricity Boards (SEBs) on account of subsidised power supply to certain categories of consumers as per the policy of the State Government. A statement indicating subsidy as shown in the accounts of SEBs for 1996-97 is given in *Statement-I. (See* below).

(b) The matter relating to continuation of power subsidy rests with the State Government/SEBs.

The total subsidies of the Central Government include major subsidies (viz food, fertilizer and export promotion and market development), debt relief to farmers and other subsidies (which include railways, mill-made and handloom cloth, interest subsidies etc.) Food and fertilizers accounted for a large share (about 84 per cent) of the aggregate subsidy of Central Government in 1996-97.

(c) The total subsidy in 1996-97 amounted to Rs. 16,125 crore, which is around 8 per cent of the total expenditure of the Union Government.

(d) A statement indicating the subsidy given by State Governments to the SEBs is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Subsidy as shown in accounts by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) during 1996-97.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs	Subsidy as in accounts
1.	APSEB	840.46
2.	ASEB	52.33
3.	BSEB	0
4.	GEB	1063.29
5.	HSEB	641.73
6.	HPSEB	0
7.	KEB	704.93
8.	KSEB	247.11
9.	MPEB	337.53
10.	MSEB	258.89
11.	McSEB	8.5
12.	OSEB	257.62
13.	PSEB	403.78
14.	RSEB	424.71
15.	TNEB	586.91
16.	UPSEB	1462.38
17.	WBSEB	245.52
	ALL SEBs	7535.69

Statement-II

Statement of Subsidy received by State Electricity Boards (SEBs)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	APSEB	944	0.00*	0.00*
2.	ASEB	0	0	0
3.	BSEB	0	0	N.A.
4.	GEB	215	459	282.53
5.	HPSEB	0	0	0.05
6.	HSEB	465.1	192.0*	219.32
7.	KEB	206.53	551	533
8.	KSEB	0.77	1	0
9.	McSEB	N.A.	8	N.A.
10.	MPEB	219.82	592.00*	310
11.	MSEB	0	631	258.71
12.	OSEB	161	190	N.E.
13.	PSEB	0	468	0
14.	RSEB	360.73	235	44.48
15.	TNEB	350.06	416	370.1
16.	UPSEB	0	0	0
17.	WBSEB	30.1	82	55

*Excluding adjustment against S.G. loan

N.A. Not Available
N.E. Not in Existence
Source: PFC.

सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित किए जा रहे दूरदर्शन केन्द्र

1465. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दूरदर्शन के कितने केन्द्र केवल सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित किये जा रहे हैं;

(ख) इनमें से मध्य प्रदेश में स्थित केन्द्रों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ग) उन केन्द्रों के नाम क्या हैं जहां विद्युत लाईन होने पर भी सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित प्रसारण व्यवस्था की गई है;

(घ) सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित प्रसारण केन्द्रों में पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में जहां महीनों सूर्य की किरणें, दिखाई नहीं देती, क्या वहां प्रसारण की निरन्तरता बनाए रखने के लिए कोई वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई है; और

(ङ) मध्य प्रदेश में जोशपुर नगर (रायगढ़) केन्द्र में इस तरह की गई व्यवस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा वहां प्रसारण बन्द रहने का ब्यौरा क्या है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री तथा संचार मंत्री (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज): (क) से (घ) मध्य प्रदेश में बीजापुर, बुधनी, डायमण्ड माइनिंग परियोजना, जशपुरनगर, कोण्डागांव, कोयलीबेड़ा, परसिया, पाखन्जोर, सिंगरौली सहित देश में वर्तमान में कार्यरत सभी 199 अति अल्प शक्ति ट्रांसमीटरों को सौर ऊर्जा द्वारा क्रियाशील किया जा रहा है। प्रायः इन सभी अति अल्प शक्ति ट्रांसमीटरों में अबाधित प्रसारण बनाए रखने के लिए वैकल्पिक प्रबंध के रूप में बैटरी बैंक जहां उपलब्ध